Secl. II-27—100,000—21-8-48.

Food (1948) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No.	524
Dated	9- 6- 48

[Despatch Abstract.]

CIVIL SUPPLIES - FOODGRAINS - DE-NATIONED AREAS - SUPPLIES OF FOOD GRAINS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES - ORDERS - PASSED.

***

Government of India,
Ministry of Food.

FEEDING OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

The Sub-Committee appointed to consider the question of feeding essential workers recommends as follows:-

1) WHAT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE NECESSARY FOR ENSURING SUPPLIES FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE AGENCY OF PROCUREMENT.

In considering the question, the committee was of the opinion that there are considerable objections to a system of feeding particular classes of the population under a policy of decontrol. The objections are mostly practical such as the method of picking persons who come within the category of those who are to be fed, the danger of waste of food and public money by reselling of grain particularly if this grain is distributed at prices below those current in the market and the like. Nevertheless, under present circumstances where there is likely to be a considerable interim period during which prices and supplies cannot be considered stabilised and when it is most important that the public services, both Government and otherwise, should be maintained at a fair degree of contentment and efficiency, the committee is of the opinion that special arrangements for feeding essential personnel, should circumstances make this necessary as a result of unreasonably high prices or lack of availability of grain, should be accepted as policy.

As regards the agency for procurement, the committee recommends that the responsibility for feeding essential personnel should rest as follows:-

i) with the Central Government in the case of Central Government employees, whether at the Centre or in Provinces/States though such responsibility may be in fact implemented by mutual arrangement with a Provincial or State Government; and

ii) with the Provincial or State Government in the case of personnel not covered by (i), though such responsibility may be implemented in the matter of availability of grain with the help of the Central Government.

In making this distinction, the committee is aware that the present accepted principle is that a Provincial or State Government is responsible for the feeding of all persons resident in its jurisdiction but the committee feels that over-riding consideration, under a system of decontrol, should be given to achieving a uniform and co-ordinated policy in respect of the treatment of all Central Government employees as long as such special treatment is necessary. In practice, it is categorically recommended that Provincial and State Governments should take action in close liaison with the Central Government.

It follows from the above that the agency for procurement will be the Central or Provincial (State) Government as the case may be subject to any special arrangements made between the Provincial (State) Government concerned and the Central Government in the light of actual availabilities. Provision should be made in the Central Reserve to meet any emergency.

2) WHICH CATEGORY OF WORKERS SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS ESSENTIAL WORKERS FOR THE PURPOSE AND WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED.

The following categories of workers should be regarded as requiring special consideration:-

1) Communications. Railways, Transport including Provincial/State Government systems; Posts and Telegraphs and Telephones.

P.T.O.....

ii) Public utility services. Coal mines, electric supply undertakings, water and sewage works, irrigation.

iii) Organized labour in areas or projects specially notified by the Central, Provincial or State Government.

iv) Any service or class of persons notified by the Central, Provincial or State Government as essential.

v) Displaced persons in camps and also displaced persons in indigous circumstances outside camps.

It is impossible for the committee to estimate the numbers that are likely to be involved without reference to Provincial and State Governments.

3Q WILL DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS BE NECESSARY AFTER PROVINCIAL BARRIERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

The Committee is of opinion that it is not practicable and it would be unwise to make recommendations for a long period under the present extremely fluid circumstances and it is, therefore, of opinion that the above should be accepted as policy till April, 1949 by which time it should be possible to gauge with greater accuracy and the results of the 1948 decontrol policy. These decisions should be reviewed at a suitable time previous to this date.

4) In making these recommendations, the Committee wish clearly to bring out and stress certain implications,

i) Except where a specific commitment already exists, the essential personnel mentioned above are not to be fed by Government as a routine day to day matter but only when particular circumstances make this necessary. These circumstances, as indicated above, are where prices of grain are unreasonably high or grain is not avialable; and

ii) Distribution of grain under this scheme should be at reasonable prices.

F.C. Bedhwar (Railway Board)
E N. Mangatrai (East Punjab)
C.P.K. Menon (Food Ministry)
B.R. Patel (Food Ministry)

New Delhi,
Dated the 29th April, 1948.

Food Department.

Endorsement No.15990 B/48-2, dated 10th May 1948.

Copy forwarded to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) for immediate remarks.

sd.x x x,
10-5-48

To the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Madras.
(with enclosures)

/True Copy/

Food Department (B)

Sub: Civil Supplies - foodgrains - Supply to essential services..
Ref: Government Endorsement No.15990 B/48-2, dated 10-5-1948.

The Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) is requested to expedite its reply to the reference cited.

sd.x x x, 18-5-48

To the Boa d.of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Madras.

/True Copy/

Copy of Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) reference No.63247 U.IV/48 dated 19th May 1948.

***

Sub: FEEDING THE ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

Ref: Government Endorsement No.15990-B/48-2, (Food), d/10-3-1948.

The Board offers the following remarks on the subject mentioned above.

2.The question of feeding the essential services was examined in 1946 on a reference received from the Government of India The Board invites the attention of the Government to their letter No.1863-B/46-2, dated 16-8-1946 sent to the Secretary to Govt., Food Department, New Delhi, based on the remarks offered by the Board on the subject. The consideration which weighed with the Govt. of India for following a policy of affording special treatment to the essential personnel at that time were "the most difficult supply position expected during the ensuing months" and "to enable the administration to continue functioning". On that occasion the Government of India made it clear that they wanted that essential services should continue to receive adequate food even if that involved giving them preference over other sections of the population.

3.The conditions prevailing at present, are, however, different in that there is no province-wide rationing as was the case when the question was examined in 1946. Now there are three different systems of controlled distribution of foodgrains, in this province, viz., statutory rationing in about 15 Municipal and Panchayat areas, rural rationing in the districts of Malabar and the Nilgiris and distribution through relief shops in derationed areas.

4.The Sub-committee which was recently constituted by the Government of India for the purpose of examining the question has held the view that it should be accepted as policy that under the present circumstances in which there is likely to be a considerable interim period during which prices and supplies cannot be considered stabilized and as it is most important that the public services, both Government and otherwise, should be maintained at a fair degree of contentment and efficiency, special arrangements should be made for feeding essential personnel, wherever they are necessary, on account of ~~grains~~. The ~~for~~ unreasonably high prices or lack of avilability of grains. The following categories of workers have been mentioned as requiring special consideration:-

1. Communication - Railways, Transport including Provincial/State Government systems, Posts& Telegraphs, and Telephones.

ii. Public utility services:- Coal mines, Electric Supply undertakings, Water and Sewage works and Irrigation.

iii. Organised labour in areas or projects specially notified by the Central, Provincial or State Governments.

Iv. Any service or class of persons notified by the Central, Provincial or State Governments are essential.

v. Displaced persons in camps and also displaced persons in needy circumstances outside camps.

P.T.O.....

5. The above statement of policy would, it appears, supercede and nullify the contents of para 4 of G.O.Ms.No.177, (Food) dated 3-3-1948. On receipt of the G.O., the Board, in its reference No.7296-U.II/48 (CS), dated 24-3-48, addressed the Government to state the actual scale and composition of foodgrains to be supplied to mill hands, hospitals, hostels and essential services. Collectors in the meantime were instructed to allow the scale and composition in force in the rural areas of Malabar and the Nilgiris in the cases mentioned in the G.O. Under the existing instructions, wherever locally available supplies are scarce and the prevailing prices have risen very high and have consequently made it possible for supplies to be procured in the open market by people with fixed incomes in the lower groups, all consumers whether they belong to the essential services or not, are entitled to receive regular supplies of foodgrains in the de-rationed areas through relief shops subject of course to the availability of stocks. The total quantity of foodgrains so issued per adult per day is the same as that prescribed for the statutorily rationed areas, though the composition may be different either because of the fact that the draw on rice has to be kept down or because a reasonably quick disposal has to be found for the large quantities of unfamiliar foodgrains, such as maize, which Madras Province has had to accept from the Government of India within the Provincial ceiling import quota. This is a very important point which deserves emphasis in the present context.

6. If, therefore, the personnel employed in the Essential services, along with other consumers similarly placed with regard to ability to purchase their requirements themselves without the assistance of Government on conditions of scarcity and high prices, are already assured of supplies at the scale applicable to statutorily rationed areas, no special policy or revision of policy towards them would appear to be called for in this Province, unless it is desired that preference should be shown to them in so far as the composition of the ration is concerned. At present the composition of the ~~issues~~ ~~ordered~~ through relief shops in the de-rationed areas to the essential services is 6 Oz. of rice, 4 oz. of maize, milo or millets in the case of mixed diet eaters and millet eaters, respectively. Heavy manual labourers receive an additional 4 oz. of maize. The Board has also submitted a proposal to the Government on 14-5-1948 for the enhancement of the rice-content of the ration by 2 oz. with immediate effect. If this proposal is accepted the essential services will get 8 oz. of rice per adult ~~accepted~~ per day in which case it would appear that this is an extremely satisfactory position and ought to keep the services contented and at the required level of physical efficiency. No special treatment by way of any further enhancement of the rice-content of the ration is necessary in the case of the non-heavy manual workers in the essential services, as they will be mainly educated persons of high status who will be able to accustom themselves to consuming the 4 oz. of the non-rice portion of the ration in the shape of unfamiliar foodgrains. This view was expressed by the Government in their letter to the Government of India No.1863-B/46-2, dated 15-8-1946 and the same holds good even now.

rice eaters and proportionately less rice and more millets in the case of

7. The only point that would merit some consideration is whether the additional 4 oz over and above the over-all ration, issued to the heavy manual workers, should be in the shape of maize or in some other foodgrains perhaps less unfamiliary and more acceptable than maize, such as wheat or milo. The what position has considerably improved of late and the present stocks both in the Provincial Reserve and in the districts is a little over 25,000 tons. A further allotment of 20,000 tons will be received into this Province before the end of next month. There is therefore no objection to issuing the additional 4 oz. in the shape of wheat to the heavy manual workers in the essential services.

P.T.O.....

8. If the Board's proposal to enhance the rice ration by 2 oz. is accepted by the Government and if wheat is ordered to be issued in lieu of maize towards the additional 4 oz. due to the heavy manual workers in the essential services, the following will be the scale and composition of issues:

Non-heavy manual workers in the essential services.	Upto 8 oz. of rice and 4 oz. of maize, milo and/or local millets - the total ration not to exceed 12 oz.
Heavy manual workers in the Essential Services	Upto 8 oz. of rice, 4 oz. of maize, milo and/or local millets and 4 oz. wheat - the total ration not to exceed 16 oz.

The Board however considers that the members of the respective families of the personnel employed in the essential services should draw supplies only at the usual relief scale and composition, viz., upto 5 oz. of rice (except in the districts of Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Madura and South Kanara where it will be 6 oz.) 5 oz. of maize, milo and/or local millets and 2 oz. of wheat per adult per day.

9. The Board is for the acceptance of the five categories of essential workers proposed by the sub-committee and suggests further that the following four special categories may be notified under item (iv) of the list furnished under para (4) above as workers employed in the essential services in this Province:-

a. All employees in the Government, local Board or Municipal services.
b. Medical and Public Health staff.
c. Port and Harbour workers.
d. Police.

10. Copies of letters received from the Collectors of Chittoor and Bellary which have a bearing on the subject are herewith enclosed.

sd. x x x
for Provl. Controller of Food Rationing.

To the Secretary to Government, Food Deptt., Madras.

/True Copy/

Copy of L.2.No.4562/48 dated 1st May 1948 from Dt. Collector, Chittoor, to the Secretary to the Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Madras.

Sub: Rationing - Rural - abolition of - Issue off rations to essential services.

Ref: Board's Ref: 7296-U.II/48 dated 24-3-1948.

In G.O.No.177, dated 3-3-48 orders have been issued for the issue of rations to certain institutions and essential services. The Board has fixed the scale of rations to the institutions under reference in its above reference tentatively.

2. Only of the categories of persons mentioned in the G.O. is "Essential Services". In G.O.No.S.1443-16-47 Public, General, dated 3-12-47 the Government have declared that all Government servants are essential service personnel. In regard to grant of rations to Essential Services the Government state that though they do not, as a policy, recognize the grant of rations at controlled rates to these services, the Collectors may use their discretion in special cases and give such concessions as they consider necessary provided the reasons are recorded in writing and the scale and composition of rations are adhered to.

3. Rice is selling at Re.1/- to 1/3/- per M.M. in the open

P.T.O.

market, in all the taluks against the controlled rate of Rs.0-9-3 and is beyond the reach of the ill paid Government servants. On account of the high prices, the merchants are not freely purchasing and selling food-grains, with the result that a steady supply even at a high cost is not ensured. The Government servants who belong to the lower middle class are by habit accustomed to rice. As it is not freely available the ill paid Government servant has to knock about shop to shop to purchase his rice, as the 3 oz. of rice which he can get from the relief shop is not sufficient and even that will not be issued unless he takes the non-rice portion including maize forming major part. His mental and physical energy is thus wasted on account of the high cost, insufficiency of means and knocking about for the stuff. This definitely distracts his mind and will tell on office effiency. In view of this and in view of the specially large increase in prices, noticed recently I feel that the concession granted in the G.O. should be extended to all Government servants. I request orders for the issue of rations to all Government servants who are essential services at the scale and composition of ration fixed in the Board's Ref:No.7296-U.II/48, dated 24-3-48.

sd. x x x
Superintendent.

/True Copy/

Copy of letter R.C.4767/48-N-2, dated 8-5-1948 from Collector, Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras.

Sub: Civil Supplies - Rice - Bellary district - Issue of rations to Public servants - Treating them as Essential Services - Instructions requested.

The staff of the offices of the Collector, the Superintending Engineer, Posts and Telegraph &c have applied to me to treat them as essential services and to order the issue of rations according to the scale and composition prescribed in Board's Ref.No.7296-U.II/48 dated 24-3-48 read with G.O.No.177, Food, Department, dated 3-3-48. The Collectors have been given the discretion in special cases to grant the concession of purchasing rice at controlled rates and at the scale and composition prescribed by the Board to some essential services.

After the abolition of statutory rationing in this district, all public servants in the three de-rationed statutory areas of Bellary, Adoni and Hospet are experiencing considerable difficulty in securing rice at reasonable rates. The price of rice in the open market is abnormal and these low paid subordinates feel it too difficult to purchase rice in the open market.

I intend to treat all public servants in the three de-rationed statutory areas of this district as Essential Services for the purposes of supplying food-grains. The case of the above Government servants is different from those in the rural areas as they get food grains and other commodities at relatively cheaper rates. The heads of many offices have urged the cases of their subordinates that they find it very hard to make both ends meet with their meagre salary. A clerk getting Rs.63/- including dearness allowance is spending Rs.40/- for rice only at the present market rate. If we give them the rations from the District stock they can manage with about Rs.25/- for rice. Unless we give this concession to at least low paid Public Servants, getting Rs.150/- and below there will be considerable suffering.

I, therefore, request that I may be permitted to treat the above public servants under "Essential Services" and supply

andsupply them food grains at controlled rates according to the scale and composition of rations prescribed by the Board.

sd.x x x,
Superintendent.

/True Copy/

Copyof TelegramRX PY-619 (17)/48 (i) Food Ministry, New Delhi, to the Food Department, Government of Madras.

Letters even number dated 11th May regarding feeding essential ~~xxxxix~~ workers. Kindly expedite ~~xxx~~ your comments.

(FOOD DEPARTMENT)

/True Copy/

Government of Madras,
Food Department.
Letter/Ref.No.15990 B/48-4.

From

Sri M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Food, NEW DELHI.

Dated 4th June 1948.

Sir,

Sub: Feeding the Essential Services-

Ref: From the Ministry of Food, No.PY.619(17)/48,
dated 7th May 1948.

With reference to the letter cited, I am directed to reply as follows:-

(1) POLICY:-This Government accept the suggestion of the Sub-Committee that in order to maintain a fair degree of contentment and efficiency, special arrangements for feeding essential personnel, should circumstances make this necessary as a result of unreasonably high prices or lack of avaiability of grain, should be accepted as a policy. This Government also accept that the essential services should not be fed as a routine day to day matter but only when particular circumstances make it necessary and that the distribution of grains under the arrangements should be at reasonable prices. The suggestion that the Central Government will be responsible for the feeding of Central Government essential personnel and the Provincial Governments in respect of others and that in practice the Provincial Government should take action in close liasion with the Central Govt. is also accepted by this Government.

(2) CLASSIFICATION OF WORKERS AS ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL:- This Government accept the five categories of essential workers proposed by Sub-Committee. I am to state for the information of the Government of India that this Government propose to notify the following four categories of workers as essential services under Category IV suggested by the Sub-Committee.

(a) All employees in the Government, Local Board of Municipal Services.
(b) Medical and Public Health Staff.
(c) Port and Harbour workers.
(d) Police.

P.T.O.....

3. PERIOD UNDER WHICH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO BE MADE: As regards this point, this Government propose to continue the arrangements till December 1948 when the necessity for the continuance of the arrangements will be reviewed ~~with~~ again.

Sd. M.A.Kuttalalingam Pillai,
SECRETARY.

Copy to the Regional Food Commissioner, Southern Region, Madras.
Copy to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), with reference to their reference No.63247 U.4/48, dated 19-5-1948.
Copy to S.F.
s/c

/True Copy/

Food Department (b)

Government of Madras,
Abstract:

CIVIL SUPPLIES - Foodgrains - Derationed areas - Supplies of foodgrains to "Essential Services2 - Orders passed.

Food Department.

G.O.Ms.No.524, Dated 9th June, 1948.
Read the following:-

1. G.O.Ms.No.177, Food, dated 3rd March 1946.
2. G.O.Ms.No.463, Food, dated 21st May, 1946.
3. From the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Ref.No.63247-U.IV/48, dated 19th May 1948.

O R D E R:

In continuation of para six of G.O.Ms.No.463, Food, dated 21st May 1948, the Government issue the following orders in regard to the supply of foodgrains to "Essential Services" in derationed areas.

2. The following categories of workers are classified as 'Essential Services' for the purpose.

i) Communications:- Railways, transport including Provincial Government systems, Posts & Telegraphs, and Telephones.
ii) Public Utility services: Coal mines, electric supply undertakings, water and sewage works and irrigation.
iii) Organised labour in areas or projects specially notified by Central or Provincial Governments.
iv) All employees in the Government, local Board, or Municipal services, medical and public health staff, port and harbour workers, police establishment and any other services that may be declared as 'Essential Services' in future for the purpose.
v) Displaced persons in camps and also displaced persons in indigent circumstances outside camps.

3. The 'Essential Services' should be supplied with foodgrains at controlled rates according to the scale and composition of rations applicable to the rural areas of Malbar, (viz. existing scale for rice eaters 6 oz. rice, 2 oz. maize and 2 oz. wheat), maize being issued compulsorily. Heavy manual labourers in 'Essentials services' shouldbe supplied 4 ozs. of extra ration in the shape of any grain available other than rice or paddy.

P.TO....

4. 'Essential Servicds' should be supplied foodgrains as a routine day to day matter but only where prices of grain are unreasonably high or grain is not available. These Concessions will for the present be operative till 31.12.48.

5. The Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) is requested to issue necessary instructions to all Collectors and to send five copies thereof to the Government and also to ~~submit~~ review the position and submit a report in the third week of December 1948 regarding the necessity for continuance or otherwise of the concessions now sanctioned to 'Essential services'

(BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR)

M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Madras.
To the Inspector-General of Police.
To the Surgeon-General, Madras.
To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Madras.
To the other Heads of Departments.
To Departments of Secretariat.
To the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Premier.
To the Government of India, Ministry of Food, New Delhi.
To the Regional Food Commissioner, Madras.
s/f.

/True Copy/

Copy of Government Memorandum No.20638-B/48-6, Food, dated the 23rd June 1948.

Sub: Derationing - Foodgrains - Supply to essential services - Scale and composition of rations - Clarification.

Ref: From the Board of Revenue(Civil Supplies), No.78239-U.IV/48-1, dated 4-6-1948.

The Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) is informed that it is the intention of the Government that the scale and composition ordinarily applicable to the rural areas of Malabar should be adopted for supply of rations to essential services but there is no objection to the temporary concession allowing the card-holder in the rural areas of Malabar to draw 2 oz., of what in place of millets including maize being extended to the essential services, if the stock position of what would warrant it. The Board is also informed that it is the intention of the Government ~~xxx~~ that the heavy manual labourers in the essential services should be given the supplementary ration in the shape of any grain other than rice or paddy subject to availability. The Board recommended that only what should be ~~ix~~ given but Government considered that there was no need to restrict it to wheat alone.

/True Copy/

Copy of Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) B.P.Rt.No.1211/48, dated 30-6-1948.

Sub: CIVIL SUPPLIES - Foodgrains - Derationed areas - Supply of foodgrains to essential services - Government orders - communicated.

Ref: Board's Ref.No.42595-U4/48, C.S., dated 29-5-1948.
G.O.No.524, Food, dated 9-6-1948.
Board's Ref.No.78239-U4/48-1, dated 14-6-1948.
Government Memo.No.20638-B/48-6, dated 23-6-1948

P.T.O.

In continuation of para 2 of the Board's reference No.42595-U4/48-7, CS, dated 29-5-1948, the following orders in regard to the supply of foodgrains to "essential services" in derationed areas are communicated.

2. The Government have classified ~~xx~~ the following categories of workers as "essential services" for the purpose:-

1. Communications:-Railways, transport including Provincial Government systems, Posts & Telegraphs and Telephones.

2. Public Utility Services:-Coal mines, electric supply undertakings, water and sewage works and irrigation.

3. Organized labour in areas or projects specially notified by Central or Provincial Governments.

4. All employees in the Government, local Board, or Municipal Services, medical and Public Health staff, port and harbour workers, police establishment and any other services that may be declared as 'essential Services' in future for the purpose.

5. Displaced persons in camps and also displaced persons in indigent circumstances outside camps.

3. Members of 'Essential Services' not including their dependants should be supplied with foodgrains at controlled rates according to the scale and composition of rations ordinarily applicable to the rural areas of Malabar, which are as follows:-

Rice eaters: Up to 6 oz. of rice and/or wheat.
Up to 2 oz. of millets (including milo) if available.
2 oz. of maize and/or maize (optional)
(compulsory)

Mixed diet eaters: Upto 4 oz. of rice and/or wheat.
Upto 4 oz. of milo or millets, if available, and/or maize (optional)
2 oz. maize (compulsory)

Millet eaters: Upto 2 oz. of rice and/or ~~what~~ wheat.
Upto 6 oz. of milo, millets, if available, and/or maize (optional)
2 oz. of maize (compulsory)

If the stock position of wheat would warrant it, there is no objection to issue temporarily the following scale and composition of ration as the concession is allowed in that district. ← in the case of Malabar district so long as the

6 oz. of rice
2 oz. of wheat.
2 oz. of maize (maize being issued compulsorily)

Heavy manual labourers in "essential services" may be supplied 4 oz. of extra ration in the shape of any grain available other than rice or paddy.

4. Essential Services" should not be supplied foodgrains as a routine day-to-day matter but only when prices of grain are unreasonably high or grain is not available. These concessions will for the present be operative till 31-12-1948.

5. The Collectors are requested to review the position and submit a report in the first week of December 1948 regarding the necessity for continuance or otherwise of the concessions now sanctioned to "essential Services".

N.S. MANI,
Secretary.

To
All Collectors, except Collectors of Madras.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Food Department, Madras
(5 copies)

P.T.O.

Copy to the Inspector-General of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
Copy to the Regional Food Commissioner, Madras.
s/cs. 30.

/True Copy/

Copy of letter No.PY.622(5)/48, Government of India, Ministry of Food, New Delhi, addressed to ~~the~~ all Provincial Governnmemts and Administrations (including Himachal Pradesh and Cutch) and the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Baroda, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Rajasthan Union, Matya Union, Madhya Bharat Union, Saurashtra Union, Vindhya Pradesh Union and Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

All Regional Food Commissioners.

Subject: ORGANISED DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS FOR THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL PERSONNEL.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No. PY.619(17)/48 dated the 7th May 1948 on the above subject and to say that the Sub-Committee's recommendations enclosed therewith were made against the background of the policy of gradual decontrol which has since been abandoned. With the re-imposition of controls and a policy of maximum procurement and rationing, it is necessary to revert to the position which existed prior to decontrol in December 1947. The Government of India have accordingly decided that:

(a) Special arrangements must be made for supply and distribution of foodgrains to meet the requirements of Essential workers as on their contentment and efficiency depend the security and well-being of the country.

(b) The responsibility for such organised distribution must ineivtably be placed on the Provincial/State Governments as they are the only authority who can adequately control the distribution of grain produced in the Provinces/States as well as grains received from outside under the Basic Plan of the Central Government.

(c) In the category of essential workers must be included all persons (with their families) whose services are necessary for the maintenance of supplies essential to the life of the community and for the preservation of the administration. In particular, the following categories of persons or workers should be regarded as requiring special consideration:-

1. Employees of Railways (including Provincial/State Government systems), Indland water Transport, Posts & Telegraphs, Telephones, Air services:

2. Persons engaged in public utility services such as coal mines, electric supply undertakings, water and sewage works, irrigation.

3. Organised labour in areas or projects specially notified by the Central, Provincial or State Government.

4. ~~Army~~ service or class of persons notified by the Central, Provincial or State Government as essential.

5. Displaced persons in camps and also displaced persons in indigent circumstances outside camps.

(d) For purposes of distribution full advantage should be taken of the provision of grainshops by the Railway administrations, other departments of the Central Government, and employers of labour

P.T.O.....

The requirements of the essential workers should be the first charge on the supplies available in the Province both from internal procurement and from imports, if any under the basic plan.

2. I am to request that action may be taken accordingly and the action taken by your Government in pursuance of tehe policy intimated to this Ministry as early as possible.

sd. x x x,
Secretary to Govt.
India.

1. Copy to Railway Board with the request that the Railway requirements for the period 1-1-1949 to 31-10-1949 may be communicated sufficiently in advance to the Governments of the respective provinces and States along with details of issue depots to which supplies are to be made by the Provincial/State Governments.

2. Copy to:-

1. All Ministries of the Government of Indaa.
2. Prime Minister's Secretariat.
3. Cabinet Secretariat.
4. Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Indore.
5. -do- Rajkot.
6. -do- Abu.
7. Posts & Telegraphs Department.
8. All Company manged Railways.
9. P.S. to H.M.(2)
10. Secrtary.
11. D.G.F.
12. D.S.(E)
13. U.S.(B.P.)
14. A.S. (R.)
15. D.P. (I).

/True Copy/

Food Department 'B'

Letter/Ref.No.48619 B/48-1, dated 23rd November 1948.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Food,
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

Sub: Organised distribution of foodstuffs for the essential divil personnel.

Ref: Your letter No.PY.622(5)/48, dated 2-11-1948.

With reference to the letter cited, I am directed to reply as follows:-

In their letter No.15990 B/48-4, Food, dated 4-6-1948 this Government accepted the suggestion to make special arrangements for feeding essential services, if circumstances made this necessary as a result of unreasonably high prices or lack of availability of grain under a policy of de-control. Steps were accordingly taken to supply foodgrains to the essential services in de-rationed areas, on the scale applicable to rationed areas wherever the circumstances justified it. This was considered necessary for the reason that in the de-rationed areas foodgrains might not be freely available in the open market and even if available, their prices might be too high. Now that this Government are going back to controls and province-wide rationing will be established in the course of the next few months, this

P.T.O....

this Government propose to revise their policy in the matter of following essential services on

2. The Government consider it unnecessary to adopt a different scale of rations for the essential services and their families. Such concessions were not granted when there was full control prior to the adoption of decontrol policy. Whatever scale is adopted for the general public will apply to the essential services and their families. As things stand at present, this Government do not expect a cut in the basic scale of ration to anything less than 10 ozs. per adult per day. Heavy manual labourers will continue to get a supplementary ration of 4 ozs. per adult per day.

3. As regards the composition of ration, it depends to a large extent on the classification of card-holders, viz., rice eaters, millet eaters and mixed diet eaters. This classification has given room for complaints from certain quarters, but it cannot be helped for the simple reason that the bulk of the imports to this Province are in the shape of wheat or millets and in the absence of any such classification, the pressure on rice is bound to be high and it will be difficult to satisfy the demand. Further, the general policy of this Government in this matter is to give each card-holder as far as possible, the particular kind of foodgrains to which he had been normally accustomed to. Side by side, there is also the need to press into consumption large stocks of wheat and millets which this Government are receiving by way of imports. However, in regard to essential services, this Government will leave it to the option of the members to come under any category they like.

4. As regards the agency for the distribution of foodgrains to the essential services, some of these services like the Railways are now allowed to run their own grainshops and necessary foodgrains are supplied to these grainshops by this Government at the scale prescribed. These arrangements will continue. If other essential services also organise themselves and open their own grainshops Co-operative Stores or Societies similar concession will be shown to them. In the case of small centres which are unable to organise their own Societies for public servants--any of the institution coould be treated as an establishment and the foodgrains supplied to it if proper distribution could be ensured and the rules could be complied with.

sd. x x x,
23-11-1948.

/True Copy/

Government of Madras,
Food Department.

Memorandum No.48619 B/48-2, dated 23rd Nov. 1948.

Sub: Organised distribution of foodstuffs for the essential civil personnel.

Ref: 1. From the Ministry of Food, New Delhi, letter No.PY.622(5)/48, dated 2nd November 1948.
2. Government's letter No.48619 B/48-1, Food, dated 23-11-48. to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food, New Delhi.

Copies of the communications read above are forwarded to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) for information and necessary action.

sd. x x x,
23-11-1948.

To the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Madras (with enclosure)

/True Copy/

P.TO.

Copy of Board's Ref.147178/U.IV/48, dated 22-12-1948.

Sub: Foodgrains - Derationed area - Supply of foodgrains to essential services - certain concessions - sanction - extension beyond 31-12-1948.

Ref: G.O.Ms.No.524, Food,Department d/9-6-1948.
Govt. MemorNo.48619 B/48-2, Food, d/23-11-1948.

With reference to para 6 of the G.O. cited above, the Board invites the attention of the Government to their letter No.48619-B/48-1, Food, d/23-11-1948 addressed to the Government of India, Ministry of Food. The Board submits that the question of allowing any special concessions to 'Essential Services' will not arise with the introduction of rationing in the Province. The Collectors have been asked to complete all preliminary arrangements before 31-12-48 and it is expected that rural rationing will be introduced at the earliest convenient ~~xxx~~ date, at any rate not later than the first week of January 1949 in all the deficit districts. The question of extending the concession to 'Essential Services' beyond 31-12-1948 will not therefore arise now.'

sd. x x x,
for Secretary.

To the Secy. to Govt., Food Deptt.,
Madras.

/True Copy/

Copy of letter No.PY.622(5)/48, dated 20-12-1948, from the Under-Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry Food, addreseed to all Provincial Govts., and Administrations (including Himachal Pradesh and Cutch) and the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Baroda, Kashmir, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Rajasthan Union, Matsya Union, Madhyabaharat Union, Saurashtra Union, Vindhya Pradesh Union, and Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

2. All Regional Food Commissioners.

Sub: ORGANISED DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS FOR ESSENTIAL CIVIL PERSONNEL (RAILWAY PERSONNEL).

In continuation of this Ministry's letter No.PY.622(5)/48 dated 2-11-1948 on the subject mentioned above, and with reference to Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) letter* No. E(F)/48-GR.2(43) dated 8-12-48, I am directed to say that Provincial, local Administrations etc., may please note that supplies of foodgrains required for railway workers will be made on the basis indicated below:- (*Copy enclose

(1) SUPPLY IN RATIONED AREAS:- The basis ration required for railway workers in these areas should be calculated in accordance with the local basic rate in force add an additional ration of 4 oz. per day will be admissible to workers who are classed as Heavy Manual Workers, in the railways. As regards composition of the ration, the railway workers will be supplied with the cereals available on ration in any given area in the proportion fixed by the Provincial/Local Government;

(2) SUPPLY IN NON-RATIONED AREAS:- Supplies for railway workers will be at the rate of 12 oz. for ordinary workers and his dependents and 16 oz. for the defined Heavy Manual Workers. As in the case of rationed areas, supplies will be made in accordance with availabilities and there will be no commitment to supply only wheat and rice.

sd. x x x,
Under Secretary.

Copy to:

(1) The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) with reference to their endorsement No.E(F)/48-GR.2(43) dated 8-12-1948 with the request that the Railway administrations in different areas may please be advised to prepare their indents on the basis of requirements for a month, except in such cases where the local Government agree to issue more than a month's requirements.

(2) All Ministries of the Government of India.

(3) Prime Minister's Secretariat.

(4) Cabinet Secretariat

(5) Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Indore, Rajkot, Abu.

(6) P. & T. Department.

(7) All Company managed Railways.

(8) P.S. To H.M.

(9) Director, P.I. Branch.

(10) Under Secretary to Baisc Plan Branch.

sd. x x x,
Under Secretary.

/True Copy/

Copy of letter No.E(F)/48-GR.2(43) dated 8-12-1948, from the Government of India, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) addressed to the General Managers/C.A.O.Rs., Indian Govt. Rlys., and Director, Railway Clearning Accounts Office.

Sub: REPORT OF THE RAILWAY GRAINSHOPS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

Ref: Government Resolution No.E(F)/48.GR.2(43) dated 28th October, 1948.

In amplification of para 3(a) of the Government Resolution quoted above and further to para 2(a) of the Board's letter No.E(F)/48GR.2(43) A dated the 28th October 1948, Railway Administrations are advised that the term "Provincial Rationing Rules" applies not only to the regulations in force in statutorily rationed areas but also includes any orders of rules issued by the Provincial/State authorities in regard to the controlled distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops in other than the statutorily rationed areas. In other words, since Railways will be receiving allocations of cereals from Provincial/State authorities, the quantum of the ration prescribed by such authorities will apply in retail distribution. It is only where the Railway Administrations are not bound to follow any rules of the Provincial Government that the scales of ration laid down in the Government Resolution would apply.

2. Likewise, the term "quantity of the cereal ration" in para 3(a) of the Government Resolution applies not only to the total quantity of the cereals permitted but also to the quantity of each variety of cereal. In other words, if the Provincial Rationing Rules, prescribe the issue of specific quantities of wheat, rice or millets such quantities hould be adhered to.

3. As it is likely that in some areas the quantum of the ration may consist of millets or of varieties of rice other than the medium one, the Board have decided that the following concessional selling prices should be fixed in the new grain-shops operative from 1st January 1949;

i) Millets and Per Bengal Seer.

P.T.O....

		Per Bengal Seer.
i) Millets and gram when issued as a part of the cereal ration.	(Jowar, Bajra, Barley Maize, Milo, Ragi, Doric seed).	0--1--9
ii) Rice fine		0--7--0
iii) Rice first sort or quality		0--3--0
Iv) Rice Second sort or medium or coarse quality.		00-2--6

4. The Board further consider that Administration should, as a rule, in areas where there is option, ask for medium or coarse quality rice only and that no indents should be submitted for fine rice or I ouality rice. Where, however, the provincial allocations include a proportion of varieties other than the medium one, steps should be taken to limit quantities of such rice to the minimum and also to prescribe quotas in making retail issues to the employees.

sd./ S.L. Jaini,
Asst. Director, Rly. Board.

Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. Deputy Chief Controller of Standardization, Central Standards Office.
2. Secretary, I.R.C.A.
3. General Secretary, A.I.R.F. with 21 s/cs.
4. All Ministries of the Govt. of India.
5. To the Chief Labour Commissioner, Ministry of Labour.
6. All Provincial and State Government.
77 All Class I Non-Govt. Railways and Class II and Class III Railways.
8. D.R.A. (with 33 s/cs).

/True Copy/

sd. x x x,
For Secretary, Rly.Board.

/True Copy/

RS/28/1/1954.

OFFICE ASSISTANT,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.
30/1/54